

**Amendments to the Claims/Listing of Claims**

Please amend claims 5 and 14, and add new claim 39 as follows. Please cancel claims 23 and 25 without prejudice. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.- 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 4, wherein the SMRT co-repressor comprises a repression domain having

a) less than 83% identity with a Sin3A interaction domain of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 255 to 312 of SEQ ID NO: 11;

b) less than 57% identity with repression domain 1 of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 1 to 312 of SEQ ID NO: 11;

c) less than 66% identity with a SANT domain of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 312 to 668 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

d) less than 30% identity with repression domain 2 of N-CoR set forth as amino acids 736 to 1031 of SEQ ID NO: 11.

4. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or an isolated polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, and wherein the amino acid sequence of said SMRT co-repressor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 or conservative variations thereof.

5. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or an isolated

polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, and wherein said polynucleotide has ~~at least 80% sequence identity with the~~ **sequence set forth in** SEQ ID NO: 4.

6.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor) wherein said SMRT co-repressor is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors and wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with nucleotides 1 to 3094 of SEQ ID NO: 4, provided that the polynucleotide **is not the** ~~does not contain a~~ sequence **identical to** of SEQ ID NO: 11; and
- (b) polynucleotides complementary to the sequence of (a).

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A polynucleotide according to claim 14, wherein said polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) nucleotides 1 to 3094 of SEQ ID NO: 4; and
- (b) polynucleotides having at least 80% sequence identity with the complementary sequence of (a).

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising nucleotides 1 to 8561 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

19. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 4, which is operably linked to a second nucleotide sequence.

20. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 19, which encodes a fusion polypeptide comprising the SMRT co-repressor operably linked to a DNA binding domain of a transcription factor.

21. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 4.

22. (Previously presented) A host cell containing the polynucleotide of claim 4.

23. – 38 (Cancelled)

39. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a SMRT co-repressor (silencing mediator of retinoic acid receptor and thyroid hormone receptor), or an isolated polynucleotide complementary thereto, wherein said SMRT co-repressor is capable of mediating the transcriptional silencing of at least one member of the steroid/thyroid hormone superfamily of receptors, and wherein the amino acid sequence of said SMRT co-repressor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.